



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-013

BY SENATOR(S) Grantham and Crowder, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Guzman, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lewis, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lee, Leonard, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winkler, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF HIGHWAY 207 BETWEEN MANZANOLA, COLORADO, AND CROWLEY, COLORADO, AS THE "SGT. MARY RICARD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY".

WHEREAS, Mary Katherine Ricard was born on December 25, 1956, in Mountain Home, Idaho, to James and Geraldine Leidal; and

WHEREAS, On November 28, 1984, Sgt. Ricard married Timothy Ricard and united their four children, Katherine, Jack, Benjamin, and Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard was described as being a small package with boundless energy and a strong work ethic, and her family often referred to her as "5 foot 4 inches of dynamite"; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard had many hobbies, including spinning wool, weaving, and knitting, so skilled that she knitted angora wool baby booties for several of her grandchildren from wool she spun from the rabbits she raised; and

WHEREAS, In addition to raising rabbits, Sgt. Ricard raised chickens, sheep, and geese and occasionally horses, pigs, and an emu, but her prized pet was her tiny poodle Joshua, who her kids lovingly referred to as "little brother"; and

WHEREAS, Among her many talents, Sgt. Ricard also loved to sew and every year sewed pajamas for her family, a tradition started by her grandmother on a farm in Minnesota where she often spent her summers; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished cook, Sgt. Ricard worked for Copper Mountain for a total of sixteen years, fourteen of which she worked in the pastry kitchen, and rose up through the ranks due to her diligence and strong work ethic to become its pastry chef for her last two years there; and

WHEREAS, In her mid-forties, Sgt. Ricard was determined to work with inmates and felt it was her religious calling to help prisoners, so she gave up her career as a pastry chef to become a corrections officer; and

WHEREAS, From 2003 to 2007, Sgt. Ricard was proud to work as a corrections officer at Buena Vista Correctional Facility and was later transferred to Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility in Crowley, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard shared her passion for baking with the inmates and spent a lot of time teaching them basic baking skills that they could apply once out in the real world; and

WHEREAS, On September 24, 2012, Sgt. Ricard, while in the kitchen area during breakfast preparation with another corrections sergeant, was violently attacked by an inmate; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard succumbed to her wounds and died; and

WHEREAS, Tony Carochi, director of prison operations for the Colorado Department of Corrections, said Sgt. Ricard wanted to make a difference and change people's lives: "In all things, Mary gave us kindness, honesty, and, above all, courage."; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Hickenlooper shared that sentiment, stating, "[Sgt. Ricard] was a believer. She believed in people, and that every soul, no matter how far off the track, can be redeemed."; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Ricard loved people, and dedicating her life to helping those around her meant so much to her; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That Highway 207, between Manzanola, Colorado, and Crowley, Colorado, be renamed the "Sgt. Mary Ricard Memorial Highway";

(2) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the initial placement of the two signs to mark Highway 207 as the "Sgt. Mary Ricard Memorial Highway"; and

(3) That the Colorado Department of Transportation may explore a cooperative agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for Otero and Crowley Counties for the maintenance of the markings for the "Sgt. Mary Ricard Memorial Highway".

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Sgt. Mary Ricard's husband Timothy Ricard; daughter Katherine Smith;

sons Jack Benson, Benjamin Ricard, and Joseph Benson; Thomas and Jean Ricard; father James Leidal; and Department of Corrections Executive Director Rick Raemisch.



Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE



Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE



Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES